

# Site Selection for Strategic Petroleum Reserve Expansion

## Opportunity for Public Involvement



**Public Hearings** - Public scoping meetings have been scheduled to receive comments. The locations have been chosen based on their proximity to proposed new storage facilities. If there is enough expressed interest, DOE may host a public scoping meeting near one of the proposed expansion sites.

**Comments** - All comments must be received or postmarked by:  
**Friday, October 14, 2005.**

Envelopes and the subject line of faxes or e-mails should be labeled:  
"Scoping for the SPR EIS."

**Send to:**

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**For More Information**

SPR project questions  
<http://www.fossil.energy.gov>  
DOE NEPA process questions  
<http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa>

### SUMMARY

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) was established by the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975. It consists of underground oil storage facilities that can be used to protect the United States from oil supply interruptions. Currently, the approved storage capacity of the SPR is 727 million barrels of oil. In August 2005, President Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which directs the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to select sites necessary to reach the full authorized capacity of one billion barrels of oil.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Federal agencies must consider environmental values and factors in planning and making decisions about major projects. In accordance with this law, DOE will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Interested agencies, organizations, Native American tribes, and members of the public are invited to participate in the decision-making process by providing comments or suggestions throughout the EIS development.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed action is to expand SPR storage capacity to one billion barrels by expanding existing sites at West Hackberry, LA; Bayou Choctaw, LA; and Big Hill, TX; and develop an additional site with up to 160 million barrels of capacity at one of the following locations: Clovelly, LA; Chacahoula, LA; Richton, MS; or Stratton Ridge, TX.

For both existing site expansions and a new site, DOE would create oil storage caverns in rock salt formations 1,000 to 6,000 feet below the surface. The proposed expansion of existing sites would use existing infrastructure and pipelines to the extent possible. A new site would require the construction of major surface buildings, structures, and pipelines which may include a water leaching/drawdown system, a brine settling and disposal system, a crude oil injection/distribution system, a fixed fire protection system, an electrical substation, a control center, administration and security buildings, and a storage warehouse. New sites would occupy 200 to 300 acres of land.

An SPR storage site at Clovelly would be co-located on the salt dome with the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP) petroleum storage terminal and would use the existing commercial oil distribution and brine disposal infrastructure. An SPR storage site at Chacahoula would require a 58-mile pipeline for brine disposal to the Gulf of Mexico, and a 50-mile pipeline for oil distribution to the LOOP petroleum storage terminal at Clovelly, and/or a 21-mile pipeline to the marine facilities in St. James, LA. An SPR storage site at Richton would require two, co-located pipelines to Pascagoula, a 96-mile brine disposal pipeline to the Gulf of Mexico and an 83-mile oil distribution pipeline; the construction of a 118-mile oil distribution pipeline to the Capline Interstate Pipeline injection station at Liberty, MS; and the construction of new marine oil distribution facilities (docks and storage tanks) in the Port of Pascagoula. An SPR storage site at Stratton Ridge would require an 11-mile brine disposal pipeline to the Gulf of Mexico and a 37-mile oil distribution pipeline to Texas City, TX.

### PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

**NOTE:** Due to the impacts of Hurricane Katrina, the locations and dates announced in the Notice of Intent (70 FR 52088) for the public scoping meetings in Louisiana and Mississippi have been postponed. The Texas meeting will be held as originally scheduled (see below). DOE will provide additional public notification once times and locations have been determined. Please check the DOE Fossil Energy website, [www.fossil.energy.gov](http://www.fossil.energy.gov), or contact Donald Silawsky (see contact information above) for updates.

**Tuesday October 11, 2005**

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Cherotel Brazosport Hotel and Conference Center  
925 Hwy 332  
Lake Jackson, TX 77566

**Dates to be determined - Locations may change**

Hattiesburg, MS  
Pascagoula, MS  
Houma, LA

**Office of Petroleum Reserves (FE-47)**  
**U.S. Department of Energy**  
**1000 Independence Avenue SW**  
**Washington, DC 20585-0229**

### Strategic Petroleum Reserve System

